TL 1589

UN Secretary-General
Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary General of the United Nations
UN Secretariat
New York, USA

Dear Secretary-General,

The trial of Xanana Gusmäo, the leader of the East Timorese resistance, which was conducted by the Indonesian forces of occupation in East Timor, was a travesty of justice. Indonesia has no jurisdiction to try Xanana Gusmäo or any other Timorese and the court's decision to sentence him to life imprisonment is unacceptable and should be revoked.

At the talks in Rome between Indonesia and Portugal in April this year, held under your auspices, both parties promised to take confidence-building measures. Far from building confidence, the trial and sentencing of Xanana Gusmäo have only deepened the conflict over the future of East Timor.

We believe that East Timorese must play a role in the talks now taking place under your auspices, to find an internationally-acceptable solution to the question of East Timor. Xanana Gusmäo is indispensable to this process. We believe that the United Nations should call on the Indonesian Government to release Xanana Gusmäo and all the East Timorese political prisoners.

We wish you all success in your efforts to reach a solution to the question of East Timor.

16 September 1993

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José Sarney
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